

**LEMON GROVE CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

Item No. 1.F
Mtg. Date September 18, 2018
Dept. City Manager's Office

Item Title: Council Consideration of Opposition of New Offshore Oil and Gas Drilling

Staff Contact: Lydia Romero, City Manager

Recommendation:

Council Consideration of Opposition of New Offshore Oil and Gas Drilling Resolution
(Attachment B)

Item Summary:

At the request of Chairperson Gaspar and Council Member Zapf, they would like Lemon Grove to consider adopting a Resolution opposing any new offshore oil and gas drilling off the San Diego coastline. The cities of San Diego, Chula Vista, Oceanside, Encinitas, Imperial Beach, Solana Beach and Del Mar have passed similar Resolutions.

The staff report (**Attachment A**) provides background on the issue.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal effect as a result of this item.

Environmental Review:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not subject to review | <input type="checkbox"/> Negative Declaration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Categorical Exemption, Section [] | <input type="checkbox"/> Mitigated Negative Declaration |

Public Information:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter article | <input type="checkbox"/> Notice to property owners within 500 ft. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notice published in local newspaper | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood meeting | |

Attachments:

- A. Staff Report
- B. Resolution 2018-
- C. Request Letter

Attachment A

LEMON GROVE CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Item No. 1.F

Mtg. Date September 18, 2018

Item Title: **Council Consideration of Opposition of New Offshore Oil and Gas Drilling**

Staff Contact: [Lydia Romero, City Manager]

Background and Discussion:

In January 2018, the current administration released a draft five-year leasing plan that would open 90% of the nation's offshore oil and natural gas reserves for exploration by global energy companies. This would include all three regions of the California coast, the coast of Washington state and Oregon, and most of the East Coast. The plan would allow oil and gas companies to lease 47 areas off America's coastlines from 2019 to 2024. Of those areas, seven would be in the Pacific Ocean- two off of Northern California, two off Central California, two off of Southern California and one off Washington state and Oregon. This proposal marks the first time since 1984 that any new offshore drilling leases would be offered for sale in California.

California officials have argued that expanding offshore oil production would most likely require the construction of expensive new platforms and onshore support equipment whose presence could harm the state's multibillion-dollar coastal economy, including tourism, fishing and the marine ecosystem. Disasters such as the 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill, the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska and the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico have demonstrated the immense environmental and economic concerns with offshore oil drilling. California's coastal economy produces approximately \$44.5 billion in gross domestic product each year and employs almost half a million people in the state.

In 1994, the California state Legislature passed the California Coastal Sanctuary Act, which prohibited new oil and gas leases in the state's coastal waters (3 miles out from the shoreline), with some exceptions.

The San Diego region enjoys all of our beaches and the Pacific Ocean for recreational, commercial, and educational activities, all of which support our local economy. The habitat in and around our coastal waters is home to a vast array of wildlife, including fish, whales, sea turtles, and birds that depend on a healthy and clean environment and offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration off the Pacific coast puts these coastal resources, and the communities and industries that depend on them, at risk from oil spills and other damage. Concerns over the aesthetic impact of oil drilling platforms and other supporting infrastructure that would have an impact on the desirability of tourists and visitors to come to the region.

The County of San Diego, as well as nearly all the coastal cities, San Diego, Chula Vista, Encinitas, Imperial Beach, Solana Beach and Del Mar, have passed similar resolutions.

Conclusion:

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt the resolution (**Attachment B**) opposing any new offshore oil drilling and to support any legislation that opposes this proposed plan by the federal administration...

Attachment B

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LEMON GROVE, CALIFORNIA OPPOSING NEW OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS DRILLING

WHEREAS, the City of Lemon Grove values our ocean waters and coast which provide habitat to a vast array of wildlife including marine mammals, birds and fish that depend on a healthy and clean ocean environment; and

WHEREAS, the San Diego region depends on thousands of visitors who enjoy recreational activities on the beaches for tourism and local economic support; and

WHEREAS, offshore oil and gas drilling off the Pacific coast puts these coastal resources at risk of oil spills and other damage; and

WHEREAS, the State of California prohibits new leasing in state waters because of the unacceptably high risk of damage and disruption to the marine environment and economy of the state; and

WHEREAS, the America First Offshore Energy Executive Order could open the Pacific, Atlantic and Arctic Oceans to new drilling, tracking and other well stimulation, putting California's coastal resources at risk of more oil spills, increased greenhouse gases, continued dependence on fossil fuels and impacts of climate change and which could delay the movement toward greater reliance on renewable energy; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lemon Grove stands in support with our region partners in opposing an expansion of offshore oil and gas drilling because of the threat to our coast, wildlife, climate and coastal economy.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Lemon Grove, California, opposes any new offshore oil and gas leasing, drilling, and related exploratory activity in federal and state waters off the Pacific Coast, specifically near the San Diego County coastline.

Be it further resolved that the City Clerk shall forward a copy of this Resolution to Secretary Zinke; Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Director Walter Cruickshank; Governor Jerry Brown; U. S. Senators Feinstein and Harris; U.S. Representative Susan Davis; State Senator Joel Anderson; and State Representative Shirley Weber; and any other appropriate parties.

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Attachment C



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO



CITY OF SAN DIEGO

August 14, 2018

The Honorable Raquel Vasquez
Mayor of Lemon Grove
3232 Main Street
Lemon Grove, CA 91945
Via Facsimile: 6198253818

Dear Mayor Vasquez:

We are requesting the City of Lemon Grove join with the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, the Cities of San Diego, Chula Vista, Oceanside, Encinitas, Imperial Beach, Solana Beach, and Del Mar in opposing proposed expanded offshore oil and gas drilling off San Diego's coastline.

We must stand together in defense of California's coast by opposing any offshore drilling which will threaten marine wildlife and beaches, California's coastal tourism and recreation economy, public health, and interfere with military readiness and training activities essential to our national defense.

We kindly request that you adopt a resolution, like the attached resolution passed on March 6th by the city of San Diego or send similar correspondence to the Administration.

Please forward a copy to Secretary of the Interior, Ryan Zinke, and the acting Director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Walter Cruickshank, Governor Jerry Brown, and all federal and state legislators who represent your area.

Thank you for protecting our coast, our local economy, our health, and our national security.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Kristin Gaspar in black ink.

Kristin Gaspar
Chairwoman, Board of Supervisors
District 3

Handwritten signature of Lorie Zapf in black ink.

Lorie Zapf
Councilmember
District 2

County Administration Center, 1600 Pacific Highway, Rm 335, San Diego, CA 92101
City Administration Building, 202 C Street, San Diego, CA 92101